

Amendment Dated July 1, 2005
Serial No. 09/842,604

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a multicast tree ~~for a~~ from existing multicast information in a network, the network including a plurality of network devices including at least a plurality of routers that are members of the multicast, a set of the network devices routers each including a multicast database that is protocol independent, the method comprising:

locating the multicast database within each of the set of the network devices routers;
retrieving the existing multicast information from each located multicast database; and
tracing the retrieved existing multicast information across the plurality of network devices routers to form the multicast tree.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The method as defined by claim 1 wherein the multicast includes a root node, the retrieved existing multicast information being traced from the root node, the root node being one of the plurality of network devices routers.

Claim 3. (Original) The method as defined by claim 1 wherein the network implements the Internet Protocol.

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Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The method as defined by claim 1 wherein the set of network devices routers includes a unicast database having network information, the unicast database being protocol independent, the method further including:

locating the unicast database within each of the set of network devices routers;
retrieving network data from each unicast database; and
using the retrieved network data to form the multicast tree.

Claim 5. (Original) The method as defined by claim 1 wherein each multicast database is a management information base.

Claim 6. (Original) The method as defined by claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of network devices includes a protocol dependent multicast database, the multicast tree being formed free from any data retrieved from the protocol dependent multicast database.

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Claim 7. (Original) The method as defined by claim 1 wherein the retrieved multicast information is traced by an application incorporating the Simple Network Management Protocol.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) The method as defined by claim 1 wherein the set of ~~network devices~~ routers includes ~~no more than~~ only one of the plurality of network devices.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) The method as defined by claim 1 wherein the set of ~~network devices~~ routers includes a first ~~network device~~ router and a second ~~network device~~ router, each multicast database including a set of multicast data, the set of multicast information being different in the multicast database in the first ~~network device~~ router than the set of multicast information in the multicast database in the second ~~network device~~ router.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for producing a multicast tree ~~for a~~ from existing multicast information in a network, the network including a plurality of network devices including at least a plurality of routers that are members of the multicast, a set of the ~~network devices~~ routers each including a multicast database that is protocol independent, the apparatus comprising:

a multicast database processing module, the multicast database processing module being capable of ~~processing module~~ locating the multicast database within each of the set of the ~~network devices~~ routers, the multicast database processing module also being capable of retrieving the existing multicast information from each located multicast database; and

a tracing module operably coupled with the multicast database processing module, the tracing module being capable of tracing the retrieved existing multicast information across the plurality of ~~network devices~~ routers to form the multicast tree.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined by claim 10 wherein the multicast includes a root node, the tracing module being capable of tracing the retrieved multicast from the root node, the root node being one of the plurality of network devices.

Claim 12. (Original) The apparatus as defined by claim 10 wherein the network implements the Internet Protocol.

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Claim 13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined by claim 10 wherein the set of ~~network devices~~ routers includes a unicast database having network information, the unicast database being protocol independent, the apparatus further including:

a unicast database processing module ~~for locating~~ configured to locate the unicast database within each of the set of ~~network devices~~ routers, the unicast database processing module also ~~retrieving~~ being configured to retrieve network data from each unicast database, the retrieved network data being used to form the multicast tree.

Claim 14. (Original) The apparatus as defined by claim 10 wherein each multicast database is a management information base.

Claim 15. (Original) The apparatus as defined by claim 10 wherein at least one of the plurality of network devices includes a protocol dependent multicast database, the multicast tree being formed free from any data retrieved from the protocol dependent multicast database.

Claim 16. (Original) The apparatus as defined by claim 10 wherein the retrieved multicast information is traced by an application incorporating the Simple Network Management Protocol.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined by claim 10 wherein the set of network devices includes ~~no more than~~ only one of the plurality of ~~network devices~~ routers.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for use on a computer system for producing a multicast tree ~~for a~~ from existing multicast information in a network, the network including a plurality of network devices including at least a plurality of routers that are members of the multicast, a set of the ~~network devices~~ routers each including a multicast database that is protocol independent, the computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code thereon, the computer readable program code comprising:

program code for locating the multicast database within each of the set of the ~~network devices~~ routers;

program code for retrieving the existing multicast information from each located multicast database; and

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program code for tracing the retrieved existing multicast information across the plurality of ~~network devices routers~~ to form the multicast tree.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as defined by claim 18 wherein the multicast includes a root node, the program code for tracing the retrieved multicast information ~~being traced~~ is configured to trace the retrieved existing multicast information from the root node, the root node being one of the plurality of ~~network devices routers~~.

Claim 20. (Original) The computer program product as defined by claim 18 wherein the network implements the Internet Protocol.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as defined by claim 18 wherein the set of ~~network devices routers~~ includes a unicast database having network information, the unicast database being protocol independent, the computer program code further including:

program code for locating the unicast database within each of the set of ~~network devices routers~~;

program code for retrieving network data from each unicast database; and

program code for using the retrieved network data to form the multicast tree.

Claim 22. (Original) The computer program product as defined by claim 18 wherein each multicast database is a management information base.

Claim 23. (Original) The computer program product as defined by claim 18 wherein at least one of the plurality of network devices includes a protocol dependent multicast database, the multicast tree being formed free from any data retrieved from the protocol dependent multicast database.

Claim 24. (Original) The computer program product as defined by claim 18 wherein the program code for tracing implements the Simple Network Management Protocol.

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Claim 25. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as defined by claim 18 wherein the set of ~~network devices~~ routers includes ~~no more than~~ only one of the plurality of network devices.

Claim 26. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for producing a multicast tree ~~for a~~ from existing multicast information in a network, the network including a plurality of network devices including at least a plurality of routers that are members of the multicast, a set of the ~~network devices~~ routers each including a multicast database that is protocol independent, the apparatus comprising:

means for locating the multicast database within each of the set of the ~~network devices~~, routers;

means for retrieving the existing multicast information from each located multicast database; and

means for tracing the existing retrieved multicast information across the plurality of ~~network devices~~ routers to form the multicast tree.

Claim 27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined by claim 26 wherein the set of ~~network devices~~ routers includes a unicast database having network information, the unicast database being protocol independent, the apparatus further including:

means for locating the unicast database within each of the set of ~~network devices~~ routers;

means for retrieving network data from each unicast database; and

means for using the retrieved network data to form the multicast tree.

Claim 28. (Original) The apparatus as defined by claim 26 wherein each multicast database is a management information base.